

Message Text

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11

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NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4192

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETR, EEC, EFTA, GW

SUBJECT: NON- APPLICANT RULES OF ORIGIN CHANGES: EFFECTS ON
U. S. FIRMS IN THE FRANKFURT CONSULAR DISTRICT

REF: STATE 58443

SUMMARY: OF 41 FIRMS QUERIED ON EFFECT OF NEW EEC RULES OF
ORIGIN ON THEIR OPERATIONS, ONLY ONE PROFESSED TO BE ADVERSELY
AFFECTED.

1. PER REFTEL ECONOMIC- COMMERCIAL SECTION CONDUCTED
COMPREHENSIVE

SURVEY OF MAJOR 41 IMPORTERS, DISTRIBUTORS, AND MANUFACTURERS OF
US COMMODITIES/ COMPONENTS IN FRANKFURT CONSULAR DISTRICT. COM-
PANIES CONSULTED ARE IN FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES: MOTOR VEHICLES,
PAPER PRODUCTS, ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, ELECTRONICS, ELECTRICAL
MEASURING INSTRUMENTS, DATA PROCESSING, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT,
BUSINESS MACHINERY, TEXTILES, AND CHEMICALS. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS
PUT BEFORE THEM REGARDING THE NEW R/ O WERE AS FOLLOWS: (1) IN-
FLUENCE ON THEIR DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO IMPORTS, PURCHASING,
PROCESSING OF COMMODITIES, OR BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS IN GENERAL;
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(2) EFFECT ON FIRM'S COMPETITIVENESS IN MARKETS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE FTA; (3) IF REDUCTION OF COMPETITIVENESS CAUSED, WHETHER SUPPLIES WOULD BE DRAWN FROM OTHER SOURCES THEN BEFORE, DIS- REGARDING UNRELATED ADJUSTMENTS IN PRICE AND QUALITY; (4) IN LEADERSHIP DELIBERATIONS.

WHEREAS THE DEMOTED LEADERS HAD PUBLICLY DIFFERED WITH BREZHNEV OVER VARIOUS DOMESTIC ISSUES -- AND SHELEST MAY HAVE OPPOSED THE HOLDING OF THE MAY SUMMIT AFTER THE BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM -- THOSE PROMOTED HAVE NOT BEEN

IDENTIFIED AS OPPOSING ANY OF THE RECENT BREZHNEV INITIATIVES, INCLUDING HIS PUSH FOR DETENTE. IN FACT THEY, AND ESPECIALLY GRECHKO, APPEAR TO BE AMONG HIS STRONGEST SUPPORTERS. ANDROPOV, GRECHKO, AND GROMYKO ARE NOW IN A BETTER POSITION TO DEFEND THE INTERESTS OF THEIR MINISTRIES, BUT SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN POLICY FORMULATION IN THEIR AREAS, NO MAJOR SHIFT IN DIRECTION APPEARS LIKELY OVER THE NEAR TERM. THUS, WE SEE A CONTINUATION OF CURRENT DOMESTIC POLICIES, SUCH AS A STRONG EMPHASIS ON DEFENSE, TIGHT CONTROLS OVER SOCIETY, A PROPOSED STREAMLINING OF INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT -- ADVOCATED BY ROMANOV, AND A GREATER RELIANCE ON TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH THE US.

4. IN SUM, THE LEADERSHIP CHANGES APPEAR BELATEDLY TO REFLECT POWER REALITIES RATHER THAN A POWER REALIGNMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND REFERENCE TO " RETIREMENT ON PENSION" SUGGESTS THAT NO MAJOR PURGE IS IN THE OFFING.

5. USNATO CAN DRAW UPON FOREGOING AT ITS DISCRETION. ROGERS

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